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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and 12.

Applicants' counsel greatly appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the personal interview of March 9, 2004.

During the interview, Applicants' counsel explained the novel features of the present claimed invention, the differences between the present claimed invention and Kuriyama et al., and the reasons why it would not have been obvious to modify Kuriyama et al. as alleged by the Examiner. In response, the Examiner suggested that Applicants amend claims 1 and 12 to recite the feature of "at least one notch formed by a central rectangular cut through the entire thickness of said lower case portion" to more clearly distinguish the present claimed invention over Kuriyama et al.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuriyama et al. (U.S. 6,068,499). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"An electronic component comprising:
an insulative case including a lower case portion and an upper case portion;
a plurality of surface-mounting terminals mounted on said insulative case;

at least one notch formed by a central substantially rectangular cut through the entire thickness of said lower case portion to accommodate a substantially L-shaped lead portion of at least one of said plurality of surface-mounting terminals; and

said at least one notch providing a clearance between said lower case portion and said substantially L-shaped lead portion of said at least one of said plurality of surface-mounting terminals such that said substantially L-shaped lead portion does not contact any part of the lower case portion so as to prevent the occurrence of capillary effect of solder applied to said electronic component." (Emphasis added)

Claim 12 recites features that are similar to claim 1, including the above-emphasized features.

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As acknowledged by the Examiner in the interview of March 9, 2004, Kuriyama et al. fails to teach or suggest the feature of "at least one notch formed by a central substantially rectangular cut through the entire thickness of said lower case portion to accommodate a substantially L-shaped lead portion of at least one of said plurality of surface-mounting terminals" as recited in claim 1, and similarly in claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Kuriyama et al. fails to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claims 1 and 12 of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 12 are allowable. Claims 2-11 and 13-20 depend upon claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 12 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a One-month extension of time, extending to April 2, 2004, the period for response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2003.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 10, 2004

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